

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04150 300505Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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P 280342Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7831

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4150

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MY TH

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN - THAI RELATIONS

REF: KL 4090

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING THAI EMBOFF, MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER RAZAK AND PREMIER SANYA IS NOT LIKELY TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER, BUT MAY BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. RTG WISHES REVIEW GENERAL BORDER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOM. ISLAMIC SECRETARY-GENERAL AL-TOHAMY'S RECENT VISITS TO BANGKOK AND MANILA AND NOW TO KL MAY PRESAGE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN GOM RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OVER MUSLIM MINORITY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. THAI EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER, CHAWAT ARTHAYUKHI, TOLD
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PAGE 02 KUALA 04150 300505Z

EMBOFF AUG 27 THAT PRIME MINISTER RAZAK MEETING WITH

PREMIER SANYA IS NOT LIKELY TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND THAT RTG IS CURRENTLY EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR BILATERAL MEETING IN OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. CHAWAT SAID FURTHER THAT RTG IS ANXIOUS FOR EARLY MEETING BUT THAT POST-ELECTION GOM CABINET REORGANIZATION AND RAZAK'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND STRONGLY MILITATE AGAINST SEPT MEETING. FROM RTG POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, MEETING WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE OCTOBER OR MID-NOVEMBER WHEN IT EXPECTED THAT THAI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE FINISHING WORK ON NEW CONSTITUTION AND ELECTIONS WILL BE IN OFFING.

3. REGARDING SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS PROPOSED FOR RAZAK-SANYA MEETING, CHAWAT SAID THAT RTG IS INTERESTED IN SECURING RIGHT TO OPEN ONE OR TWO INTELLIGENCE OFFICES IN MALAYSIA, PRINCIPALLY IN KOTA BARU, KELANTAN. CHAWAT BELIEVED THAT GOM "COOPERATION" IN OPENING INTELLIGENCE OFFICES (SUPPLEMENTING RTG INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN KOTA BARU CONSULATE) IS NECESSARY TO MEET DEMANDS OF THAI STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED AGAINST ROYAL MALAYSIA POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH (SB) PRESENCE IN YALA, SONGKHLA AND BETONG IN JUNE. HE ALSO SAID RTG WILL PRESS FOR "REMOVAL" OF TUNKU YALA, OLD-LINE SEPARATIST LEADER FROM KOTA BARU TO JOHORE OR OTHER SOUTHERN MALAYAN STATE AWAY FROM BORDER AREA AS "GOODWILL GESTURE" UNDERLINING ABSENCE OF GOM SUPPORT FOR THAI MUSLIM INSURGENTS. CHAWAT OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT KELANTAN POLITICAL LEADERS KNOWN TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH TUNKU YALA, INCLUDING GOM LAND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK ASRI, ARE NOT LIKELY TO AGREE TO MOVING HIM OUT OF KOTA BARU.

4. ALSO ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, CHAWAT SAID THERE IS NEED FOR JOINT REVIEW OF GENERAL BORDER COMMITTEE (GBC) PROCEDURES AND "PRIVILEGES" GIVEN TO GOM SECURITY FORCES REGARDING HOT PURSUIT, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND OTHER ANTI-COMMUNIST TERRORIST MEASURES. IT CLEAR, CHAWAT SAID, THAT RTG DESERVES "EQUAL TREATMENT" IN SEEKING TO PREVENT OR DIMINISH MALAYSIAN ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIM DISSIDENTS COMPARABLE TO RTG COOPERATION WITH GOM EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND ARMED TERRORISTS USING THAI TERRITORY AS SANCTUARY. CHAWAT EMPHASIZED THAT, WHATEVER PROBLEMS RTG MAY HAVE WITH

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PAGE 03 KUALA 04150 300505Z

GOM OVER BORDER SECURITY, TERRORISTS AND SEPARATISTS, THESE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTRUDE ON ASEAN RELATIONSHIPS AND ALL SIGNS POINT TO INCREASED ASEAN COOPERATION AND STRENGTH DESPITE "COMPARATIVELY MINOR" BILATERAL DIFFERENCES.

5. COMMENTING ON ISLAMIC SECRETARY-GENERAL AL-TOHAMY'S VISIT TO BANGKOK LAST WEEK (PER REUTER REPORT CARRIED IN MALAY-LANGUAGE DAILY "BERITA HARIAN" AUG 24), CHAWAT SAID THAT

RTG RELATIONS WITH ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT ON SOUTHERN PROBLEM SHOULD PROCEED SMOOTHLY BECAUSE OF AL-TOHAMY'S FRIENDSHIP WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI (BOTH SERVED IN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN VIENNA AT SAME TIME). AL-TOHAMY, HE SAID, IS SYMPATHETIC WITH RTG PROBLEMS IN SOUTH, ESPECIALLY INTEGRATION OF THAI MUSLIMS AND USE OF THAI AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, BUT PROBLEMS REMAIN WITH SYRIANS AND OTHERS WHO STRONGLY ADVOCATED PATTANI LIBERATION FRONT CAUSE AT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE THAT AL-TOHAMY IS NOW IN K.L., BUT FACT HE IS HERE HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN OFFICIAL GOM STATEMENTS OR IN LOCAL PRESS. COMING FROM BOTH BANGKOK AND MANILA EN ROUTE TO JAKARTA, AL-TOHAMY SHOULD REVIVE GOM ATTENTION TO MUSLIM MINORITY PROBLEMS OF ITS NEIGHBORS NOW THAT ELECTIONS ARE OVER. HOWEVER, UNTIL RESULTS OF AL-TOHAMY'S VISIT ARE OBTAINED FROM GOM AS WELL AS RTG AND GOP SOURCES, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER MINORITY PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN PUT BACK ON FRONT BURNER IN GOM'S ESTIMATION.
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